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MINUTES

— OF THE —

Sixteenth Annual Session

— OF THE —

NEW ERA

Missionary Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

TABOR CITY, N. C.

October 19 - 20, 1945

The Next Session Will Be Held With The

SANDY GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Fair Bluff, N. C.

Beginning Friday Before The Third Sunday in October, 1946

9.29 Leading - - -
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to 19.48

NEWS REPORTER, WHITEVILLE, N. C.

But our statistics minutes are not out the press as yet

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COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Bro. Joe Nance, Bro. S. D. Lewis, Bro. L. Gerald.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE— Bro. W. J. McDougald, Rev. G. A. Best, Bro. W. H. Lennon, Bro. E. J. Best.
POST-OFFICE COMMITTEE—Bro. Archie Gardner, Bro. Jesse Ford.
OBITUARY COMMITTEE—Rev. James Howell and Bro. C. Ford.
FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE—Bro. T. Gerald, Bro. Best, Rev. S. P. Johnson.
PROGRAM COMMITTEE—Bro. C. Johnson, Bro. W. J. McDougald, and Bro. S. D. Lewis

Then the welcome address was made by the pastor, Rev. V. S. Singletary. The response was spoken by the Rev. James Howell. Visitors were made welcome. Bro. C. V. Bellamy from Kingdom Lake Association came forward and was made welcome. Bro. D. J. George and Rev. G. A. Best responded.

ANNUAL DOLLARS PAID IN ASSOCIATION

Rev. G. A. Best	$1.00
Bro. Bellamy	$1.00
Rev. J. A. Taylor	$1.00
Rev. V. S. Singletary	$1.00

An offering of six dollars was then raised. The adjournment of forty-five minutes followed.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT 1:45

The Association was re-opened by the Moderator and led in devotional service by Bro. D. E. Flowers, who also lined Hymn No. 66 (Common Meter). Prayer by Bro. C. Johnson followed.

The Sixteenth Annual Session of the New Era Missionary Baptist Association was called to order by the Moderator, the Reverend N. H. Hamer on Friday morning, October 19, 1945. The devotional service was conducted by Bro. Davis, who also lined Hymn No. 147 (common meter). Prayer was then offered by Bro. Joe Nance, who lined the second hymn—No. 559 (Long Meter). Prayer followed, being offered by Bro. Gaston Yates. Then Bro. Joe Nance led the song service. The service was then turned into the hands of the Moderator, who after a few brief remarks, announced the Association open for business.

It being time for the introductory sermon, by motion the speaker in the person of the Rev. J. A. Taylor was given ten minutes to speak on Foreign Missions. He came forward and spoke convincingly and interestingly on foreign missions. A foreign mission offering was then taken $12.00 being collected.

Then the Rev. W. J. Reaves was introduced to preach the introductory sermon. Rev. G. A. Best alternated. Rev. G. A. Best also lined Hymn No. 463 (Short Meter). Scripture was read from the First Psalm by the Rev. G. A. Best, followed by prayer offered by Bro. C. Ford.

The second hymn, No. 260, was lined and then the service was turned into the hands of the Moderator, who after a few remarks introduced the Rev. W. J. Reaves. The Reverend Mr. Reaves came forward and chose for his text the second chapter of Paul's letter to Timothy expressed in the third verse: "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior". He preached a wonderful sermon, at the close of which the Rev. G. A. Best came forward and led in a spiritual song service. Then the Rev. I. S. Robinson offered prayer.

Following the prayer, the Moderator led in a song service. A enrollment of the churches then followed, all being represented except Sandy Grove and Macedonia.

A motion was made that we take the program for our guide. Then committees were arranged.

The service was then turned back into the hands of the Moderator. After a few brief remarks, the Moderator heard a motion that the Sister's Meeting be omitted for the time being as they did not have a majority present.

It now being time for the doctrinal sermon, the Moderator authorized the Rev. S. P. Johnson to take the stand. The Rev. James Howell alternated. Rev. James Howell lined Hymn No. 213 (Common Meter). The Scripture lesson was taken from the Thirty-fourth Psalm. Prayer was offered by Bro. C. Ford. Then Rev. S P. Johnson was presented by the Moderator. Bro. Johnson took for his text John 16:33, reading: "These things have I spoken unto you; that in me you might have peace". He preached a soul-stirring sermon. Bro. James Howell then led in a song service and turned the meeting into the hands of the Moderator.

After some remarks, the Moderator heard some grand discussions of the topic concerning the duty to the Church of the pastor and the deacons. The main thought emphasized was that the deacon's duty is nothing more than that of helper to the church and the pastor. If he is filled with the Holy Ghost, then he proves himself invaluable to the church and to the pastor; otherwise he is of little value to either.

Then the Finance Committee Report was called for, the chairman coming forward and making the report.

The meeting was adjourned until Friday night.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION AT 7:30

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. The devotional service was conducted by Bro. Hamp McQueen and Bro. Van Carter. Bro. McQueen lined Hymn No. 543 (Short Meter). Prayer was offered by Bro. Mannan. The second hymn, No. 800 (Long Meter) was lined, then the service was returned to the Moderator, who rose, made some timely remarks, and called for reports from different committee chairman who had not reported.

Through a mutual agreement the Moderator's annual address was deferred until Saturday on account of the Temperance Sermon to be heard. In the absence of the temperance sermon appointee, the Rev. F. P. Graham, the Moderator authorized the Rev. James Howell to take the stand and preach the temperance sermon.

Rev. S. P. Johnson alternated. Bro. Johnson also lined Hymn No. 151 (Common Meter). Scripture was read from the Thirty-fifth Psalm of David. Prayer offered by Bro. W. H. Lennon followed. Hymn No. 132 (Short Meter) was lined, then the meeting was turned back into the hands of the Moderator.

The Moderator introduced the speaker in the person of the Rev. James Howell, who came forward and chose for his text Psalsm 34:13 "Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips from speaking guile." He preached a noble sermon on the subject: "Let Us Be Careful How We Speak", concluding his remarks with a song service. Rev. V. S. Singletary offered prayer, then Bro. S. D. Lewis led in a song service. An offering in the amount of $11.00 was raised.

Adjournment until Saturday morning, Oct. 20, 1945, was ordered.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION, OCT. 20, 1945

After the session was called to order by the Moderator, a devotional service was conducted by Bro. Charlie Hardie, who lined hymn No. 661 (C. M.) Prayer was offered by Bro. Samuiel Frink. Second hymn, No. 676 (Common Meter) was lined. Prayer was made by Bro. W. H. Lennon. Then the service was turned into the hands of the Moderator, who after a few remarks, called for the reading of the minutes of the previous day. They were read and received.

By motion, the Education Sermon and the Moderator's Address were deferred until afternoon, at 2 P. M.

By motion appointee was ordered to pay $1.50 without lawful excuse. After hearing the lawful excuse from Rev. J. L. Williamson, a motion to reconsider the matter was made and received. Bro. W. H. Lennon was appointed to collect funds from all leaders of the Association who were absent at the opening of the Association without lawful excuse.

The time having arrived for the Education Sermon and the appointee being absent, the Moderator ordered Rev. G. A. Best to take

the stand. Rev. C. C. McMillan, who alternated, also lined Hymn No. 248 (Common Meter). The Rev. S. C. Hemingway read the scripture from St. Luke. Rev. S. P. Johnson offered prayer. The second hymn, No. 499, (Common Meter) was lined, then the service was turned into the hands of the Moderator.

The Moderator announced the speaker of the hour, the Rev. J. L. Williamson, who preached the Education Sermon. He came forward and chose for his text II Timothy 2:15—"Study to show thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." After preaching a soul-stirring sermon, the Rev. Mr. Williamson led in a song service. Prayer was offered by the Rev. G. A. Best.

The Moderator after some brief remarks called for the Rev. E. L. McKee and the Rev. E. L. McBride to come forward and be welcomed. Annual dues were paid. Rev. D. C. Gore made a splendid talk on the Minister's and Deacon's School. Then the Education Rally was collected:

Rev. V. S. Singletary	$ 1.00
Rev. J. L. Williamson	1.00
Rev. S. P. Johnson	1.00
Rev. James Howell	1.00
Rev. C. C. McMillan	1.00
Rev. S. C. Hemingway	1.00
Rev. W. J. Reaves	1.00
Rev. F. P. Graham	1.00
Rev. I. S. Robinson	1.00
Rev. W. H. Lennon	1.50
Bro. C. Ford	.50
Bro. Joe Nance	.50
Bro. M. H. Hamer	1.20
Bro. S. D. Lewis	1.50
Bro. O. B. Pridgen	1.00
Bro. T. Gerald	.50
Motion	$20.05

An adjournment of the meeting was ordered for forty-five minutes.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, OCT. 20, 1945

At 1:45 P. M. the session reconvened and was called to order by the Moderator. Devotional service were conducted by Bro. C. Ford, who lined Hymn No. 260 (Short Meter). Prayer was offered by Bro. Gaston Yates, then Bro. C. Ford led in a song service. The service followed, in the hands of the Moderator. After a few brief remarks by the Moderator, a motion was heard to call for the Moderator's annual address. By motion the Moderator's annual address was received and recommendation made that it be turned into the hands of the committees: Rev. C. C. McMillan, Rev. I. S. Robinson, Rev. G. P. Johnson, Rev. W. J. Reaves, Bro. W. H. Lennon.

A motion followed to proceed with the election of officers, Rev. F. P. Graham being chosen Moderator protem.

Called through the chairman, the report of the missionary was heard. He reported the following:

Mount Olive	$ 10.00
Butler Branch	6.25
Cherry Grove	5.10
St. John	4.50
Center Baptist	7.50
Olive Grove	4.50
Total	$ 37.85
Collected on the Field	$ 10.00
Grand Total	$ 47.85

A motion to hear the Treasurer's report was made. Through the chairman the sum of $13.39 was reported. By motion the report was received.

Another motion was made to proceed with the election of officers. Rev. E. H. Hamer was reelected Moderator; Rev. J. L. Williamson, Vice-Moderator; Bro. Daniel Flowers, permanent secretary; Bro. E. J. Best, assistant secretary; Bro. S. D. Lewis, treasurer to succeed Bro. M. A. Frink; Rev. W. J. Reaves, missionary to succeed Rev. C. C. McMillan.

Macedonia

Sandy Grove $10.00

Then Bro. D. Killans came forward and was made welcome. He paid 50c annual dues. A motion was made and carried that we send delegates, the Moderator, and Vice-Moderator to Oxford, N. C., on Tuesday after fourth Sunday in October. By Motion we will give them $5.00 for representing fees, $5.00 for expenses, and $5.00 for Vice at State Convention.

A motion to adjourn until 7:30 P. M. on Saturday evening was carried.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION AT 7:30

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Devotional service were conducted by Bro. Soney, who lined Hymn No. 240 (Short Meter). Prayer was offered by Bro. C. Johnson. Hymn No. 248 (Common Meter) followed. The service was turned into the hands of the Moderator, who made some remarks before introducing the Rev. I. S. Robinson, who preached. Rev. Mr. Robinson came forward and chose for his text Revelations 6:8 —"I look and behold there a horse; and he that sat there on his name is Death". He preached a noble sermon. Then Rev. Graham led in song service and followed it with a prayer.

The service was then turned into the hands of the Moderator, who called for report from the committees not already reported. No reports had to be heard. Then Bro. A. L. Gause, Bro. C. W. White, Bro. M. T. Thomas, and Bro. Hamp McQueen came forward and were made welcome.

Bro. Vand Carter was ordered to act as chairman of the Finance Committee. A motion was made that the report be carried over till tomorrow. Then an offering was taken, the amount being raised $5.05. Then Bro. M. G. Thomas came forth and made some remarks; also Rev. A. L. Gause.

Adjournment was in order till Sunday morning at 9:30.

SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30.

Sunday school was called to order by the General Superintendent. The lesson was taught by Bro. W. H. Lennon. A collection in the amount of $6.05 was raised. After dismissal from Sunday school, the Association was called to order by the Moderator. The devotional service was conducted by Bro. A. L. McQueen and Bro. C. Johnson, who lined Hymn No. 489 (Common Meter). Prayer was offered by Bro. Silas McClellan. The second hymn, No. 483 (Common Meter), was lined.

The service was then turned into the hands of the Moderator, who arose, came forward, and chose Rev. W. J. Reaves to read the opening lesson from the Twenty-seventh Psalm and the fourteenth verse. Prayer by Rev. I. S. Robinson followed. The Rev. S. P. Johnson lined Hymn No. 360 (Common Meter), which was sung by the choir.

The Moderator then came forward to preach the Missionary Sermon, based on the text Luke 24:48—"And you are witnesses of these things". He preached a wonderful sermon, after which he led in a song service. Prayer was offered by Bro. Eddie Graham. Then the Finance Committee came forward and raised an offering of $21.20. A motion followed and was received that this Association donate to Tabor City Missionary Baptist Church the sum of $25.00. A motion was then made and carried that a vote of thanks be expressed to this church and her members for their good hospitality during our stay here.

A motion was then made to turn in all unfinished business to the Board . The motion carried.

The Association donated to Bro. Gaston Yates the sum of $3.05; this ended the glorious 16th Session of the New Era Missionary Baptist Association with Rev. N. H. Hamer, Moderator, and Daniel Flowers, permanent secretary.

The next session of the New Era Missionary Baptist Association will convene with the Sandy Grove Missionary Church of Fair Bluff, N. C., beginning on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1946.

Disbursements:

Rev. N. H. Hamer, Moderator	$	20.00
Rev. J. L. Williamson, Vice Moderator		7.00
Daniel Flowers, Secretary		10.00
Bro. W. H. Lennon		6.00
State Convention - Turn to Rev. N. H. Hamer		15.00
Turned Over To Bro. T. Gerald		
Expense Board at St. John Baptist Church	$	2.00
Rev. S. P. Johnson		2.00
Bro. W. H. Lennon		2.00
D. E. Flowers		2.00
Finance Committee - Bro. S. D. Lewis		5.50
Bro. Joe Nance (was sent to him by Bro. George)		2.00
Rev. James Howell		1.00
Rev. I. S. Robinson		1.00
Rev. S. P. Johnson		1.00
Rev. W. J. Reaves		1.00
Rev. C. C. McMillan		5.00
For Books for Association		2.25
For Minutes for Association		18.50
For Programs for Association		3.25
Total Disbursements	$	106.50
Leaves a balance	$	58.39

MODERATOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

To the New Era Missionary Baptist Association in the year of our Lord, 1945, by the Moderator in her 16th Annual Session.

Brother ministers and messengers of this association and also to my co-workers of the various fields of Christain labors and sisters, likewise, in the Lord: I am truly happy for many reasons in rejoicing of the time. I rejoice in being blessed to behold your smiling faces once more since we met together last session of this association to do business for our Lord and Master.

My mind like lighting flashes back today and thinks of the travails of our forefather who struggled and suffered death and imprisonment, were burned in fire, sorrowed and were put to death for continuing in the true Faith with trust in God - aside from our travails and struggles up to the time being. I feel like breaking out in giving praises and honor to God for his providing for us, as the poet reads and says, for we are yet alive to see each other face to face. Glory and praise to Jesus for His redeeeming grace preserved by power Divine to full salvation. Hear again Praise in Jesus.

Our forefathers labored in order that God might open unto them the door of free liberty in serving a true God in spirit and in truth, knowing no other God in power to save in the critical ages of slavery in their days of travels and suffering death and imprisonment for continuing for the true faith in God - of a oneness of love which is stronger than death. I am happy to say to you, my Christian friends, it pays to be loyal to God and to our fellow men in more than ways of pretense or in part in carrying out Christ's great commandment of religious education. So that it might spread into all the world, it is more than talk in doing the will of God as expressed in Acts 5:3. Ananias and wife tried to get around doing the will of God by telling a lie and both died and were carried out. I believe in doing the

will of God and being loyal because of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 3:11), who laid the foundation of the church.

In the conclusion of my annual address to this association, let it rest and abide in your minds that other foundations can no man lay than that is laid by Jesus Christ.

Your humble servant,
Rev. N. H. Hamer, Moderator

MID - YEAR SESSION

Chadbourn, N. C., May 23, 1946

The one-days session of New Era Missionary Baptist Church Association was opened by Hymn No. 131 (Common Meter) by Bro. C. Ford. Prayer was offered by Bro. Gaston Yates. Hymn No. 147 (Short Meter) was lined, then the meeting was turned into the hands of the Moderator. The Rev. W. J. Reaves was ordered to take the stand by the Moderator. Rev. S. P. Johnson alternated. The Rev. Mr. Johnson lined Hymn No. 131. The scripture was read from the Twenty-third Psalm of David. Prayer was offered by the Rev. C. Ford. Then Rev. W. J. Reaves was introduced to preach the introductory sermon. He came forward and chose for his text the Twenty-third Psalm of David and the words "The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want. Using the subject "David's confidence in God's grace", he preached a real sermon.

Rev. Binnie Graham led in song service. After that, Bro M. H. Hamer and Bro. Jim Vereen were appointed the Finance Committee. They came forward and lifted an offering in the amount of $8.00; afterward the Moderator declared the Association open.

Enrolling Churches

Butler Branch	5.00
$10.00 (for 1945)	
Sandy Grove	5.00
Cherry Grove	5.00
Mt. Olive	12 50
St. John	5.00
Olive Grove	2.50
Tabor City Baptist Church	5.00

In all, seven churches were represented; two were not:
Macedonia
Center Baptist

Then the welcome address of the Moderator was heard. Rev. Riddick responded. Visitors were made welcome.

The time having come for the sermon, the sermon was delivered by the Rev. Riddick with the Rev. J. L. Williamson alternate. The Reverend Mr. Riddick was introduced by the Moderator. He came forward and preached a wonderful sermon, which was spiritually helpful to every one who heard him. At the conclusion the Finance Committee lifted an offering of $18.00, which was used for the Education Rally.

Rev. J. L. Williamson (paid)	$ 1.00
Rev. L. M. Stevenson	1.00
Rev. S. P. Johnson	1.00
Rev. W. J. Reaves	1.00
Rev. Grant Graham	1.00
Rev. V. G. Singletary	1.00
Rev. B. R. Graham	1.00
Rev. F. P. Graham	1.00
Bro. R. D. Lennon	1.00
Rev. N. H. Hamer	1.00
Rev. L. C. Riddick	1.00
Bro. T. Gerald	.50
Total	$11 50
Motion	$ 15.00

Motion: to turn over to L. C. Riddick to turn to the general sec-

rectary of Baptist hearquarters, Raleigh, N. C.
Dismissal for forty-five minutes

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was called to order by the Moderator. Then followed the devotional service conducted by Bro. T. Gerald, who lined Hymn No. 131 (Common Meter). Prayer by Bro. Gaston Yates followed. The association will pay to different ministers one-third who went to Shaw and stayed three weeks. Then a motion was made that the next session of Era Baptist will convene with Sandy Grove Baptist Church, Fair Bluff, N. C.

ROLL CALL OF ORDAINED ELDERS AND DEACONS

Rev. N. H. Hamer	Fair Bluff, N. C.
Rev. C. C McMillan	Fair Bluff, N. C.
Rev. J. L. Williamson	Evergreen, N. C.
Rev. F. L. Singletary	Bladneboro, N. C.
Rev. R. L. Singletary	Bladenboro, N. C.
Rev. F. P. Graham	Fair Bluff, N. C.
Rev. G. P. Johnson	Cerro Gordo, N. C.
Rev. W. J Reaves	Chadbourn, N. C.
Rev. I. S. Robinson	Whiteville, N. C.
Rev. S. C. Hemingway	Loris, S. C.

DEACONS AND THEIR POST OFFICES

Butler Branch	W. C. Bullock, Fair Bluff, N. C.
Sandy Grove	Walace Graham, Fair Bluff, N. C.
Cherry Grove	Jesse Todd, Whiteville, N. C.
Mount Olive	W. J. McDougald, Whiteville, N. C.
Center Baptist	W. H. Lennon, Boardman, N. C.
Tabor City First Baptist	T. Gerald, Tabor City, N. C.
Macedonia	Wilbert Smith, Evergreen, N. C.
St. John	Bodie Hardie, Chadbourn, N. C.
Olive Grove	C. Ford, Cerro Gordo, N. C.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO

New Era Missionary Baptist Association

Recommendations to be adopted in the year of our Lord 1945 through the consent of the New Era and Brunswick Waccamaw Missionary Association on terms of promoting the ministers and deacons' schools - a branch of Shaw University named the McDougald Institute. This is for the convenience of Brothers interested in attending the said Institute.

(1) That half of each full term will be taught at St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Chadbourn, N. C., it being agreed upon under present conditions that the two associations bear the expenses 50-50 as is the practice now;

(2) That it is the special obligation of this association to help spread home and foreign missions, to aid in the expansion program of Shaw University, and to defray expenses of State Convention and the delegates to said convention;

(3) That in order to save time, expense, and work the Executive Board of the association and the Mid-Year Sessions of this association both convene at the same time of the annual Mid-Year session; that all churches be represented with as much as possible on the regular church budgets - terms reducing credits for the different months set up on their full year's budget:

(4) That Article One, Section One, of the Constitution, which makes provision for aged, needy, and superannuated persons and such provision being disregarded, be struck out and made to read that each church in this association will be asked to send up to association annually, aside from their regular budgets, such superannuated funds as the causes of this body justify and be deposited into a treasury (not the regular treasury of this associa-

tion) until it matures or when ordered and signed by two-thirds of the votes of this body present. In case the president or vice-present is in special need and required notice has been given by secretary or assistant secretary of the association orders will be given.

(5) That this association request of each ordained minister, licensee, delegate, and deacon the payment of the following fees in order to raise the standard of the superannuated fund and that such money be placed in the superannuated treasury:

Ministers 50c
Licensees 25c
Deacons 25c
Delegates 15c

This assessment is in addition to all other dues to this association.

(6) That the organization and history of this association be written in the minutes of this association - the record to give the date of founding, the names of the founders, and include the year 1945. All expenses will be borne by the association

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Minutes of Unfinished Business
Chadbourn, N. C., July 28, 1946

The minutes of the Association's unfinished business was disposed of by the Moderator's annual address and recommendations which were omitted at the Butler Branch Missionary Baptist Church on May 23, 1946. They were brought forward to St. John on the 28th of July, 1946, for completing the unfinished business of the 1945 session of New Era Missionary Baptist Association.

Motion was made that the two recommendations be received and adopted; that five recommendations be read and adopted; that Elder N. H. Hamer be paid $10.00 as part, Rev. J. L. Williamson $20 00 as part, —the total $60.00 and $30.00. The balance will be paid in the general association.

By motion, the Rev. W. J. Reaves be paid $1.50; Bro. W. H. Lennon be paid $3.00; Rev. N. H. Hamer, board; Rev. J. L. Williamson, board be carried over to the general association; that motion made by the Moderator be granted and put into effect and that the different groups according to option be gathered up and turned to chief clerk so it can be put in the minutes.

Motion was also made the ordained elders pay $1.00, licensee preachers pay fifty cents, and deacons pay fifty cents.

Different groups were represented with letters, messages, and finances like the churches.

Disbursement Committee
Rev. C. C. McMillan
Rev. J. L. Williamson
Rev. N. H. Hamer, Chairman-Moderator

Thus ended the 1945 session of the New Era Missionary Baptist Association.

Signed:
Rev. N. H. Hamer, Moderator
Daniel Flowers, Chief Clerk

Motion was made that the Rev. S. P. Johnson be responsible for straightening out the Moderator's annual address.

Reports from the different messengers who were appointed to the various associations were called for.

After hearing the Rev. J. L. Williamson's report, that of Rev. S. P. Johnson, and the Moderator, Rev. N. H. Hamer, a motion that the reports be received and they be discharged from the part of the work of the different fields was made.

Motion was next made that the secretary be given $4.00 to cover the cost of printing the programs (100).

The report of the Finance Committee was called for next. The chairman reported the sum of $68.50. Then some grand remarks were

made by Rev. L. M. Stevenson and the Rev. V. S. Singletary.

Adjournment was then ordered.

Signed:

Rev. N. H. Hamer, Moderator
Daniel Flowers, Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

Disbursement — Total Raised	$	68.50
State		15.00
Program in hand of Chief Clerk		4.00
Rev. J. L. Williamson — 1945		10.00
Rev. W. J. Reaves for Sermon		1.50
Rev. N. H. Hamer, Moderator		2.50
Disbursement Service		1.00
Balance	$34.50	

FIRST CHURCH COVENANT

The Covenant is to be adopted in the minutes of the New Era Missionary Baptist Association for the good of our peoples.

First: Having been, as we trust, brought by Divine Grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ to give ourselves wholly to Him, we do more solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in Him with brotherly love to His glory as our common Lord. We do, therefore, in His strength engage in exercising a Christian care and watchfulness over each other and will faithfully warn, exhort, and admonish each other as occasion may require. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together but will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His house. We will not omit closet and family religion at home nor neglect the great duty of religiously training our children and those under our care for the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven. Since we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, we will seek Divine aid to enable us to deny ungodliness and every worldly lust, walking circumspectly in the world that we may win the souls of men. We will cheerfully contribute of our property accordingly as God has prospered us in order to maintain the faithful and evangelical minister among us, to support the poor and to spread the Gospel over the earth. We will in all conditions, even till death shall strike, strive to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

May the God of Peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

BY-LAWS

Article 1.—This association shall open with singing, scripture reading, and prayer by the Moderator or his appointee.

Article 2.—The minutes of the previous meeting shall be read and adopted in order.

Article 3.—Visitors shall be invited to participate in our business with the exception of voting.

Article 4.—Each brother upon rising to speak must secure the attention and permission to speak from the Moderator, having a point of business of law.

Article 5.—No brother shall be interferred with while speaking unless called to order by the Moderator or a brother for leaving the main point of order.

Article 6.—When two persons rise at the same time claiming the right to speak, the Moderator will recongnize the one farthest away.

Article 7.—When a member is called to order by the chair, he shall take his seat until it is decided by the chair as to whether he is entitled or not to the floor. The said member, however, may appeal from the chair to the majority of the members present.

Article 8.—When a question is being debated, no motion shall be allowed except the following: to adjourn, to lay on the table, to postpone, comit, or amend.

Article 9.—When a motion has been made and vote taken, any member demanding a reconsideration of the question may have his demand complied with by consent of the majority of the members present.

Article 10.—All questions shall be put before the association by the chair and all members shall vote in either the affirmative or the negative. In the event of a tie, the chair may cast the deciding vote.

Article 11.—When the Moderator wishes to participate in the discussion of a question, though seldom done, he may appoint some one to take his seat in the chair for the time of his discussion.

THE ARTICLE OF FAITH

Article 1.—We believe in only one true and living God and that there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (Genesis 1:25 and Corinthians 13:14)

Article 2.—We believe that the scripture of the Old and New Testament is the word of God and the only rule of Ideal Faith and Practice, leading to Divine perfection of righteousness (II Timothy 2: 16-48).

Article 3.—We believe inthe doctrine of original sin (Romans 8:28; II Timothy 2:10; I Peter 1:2; John 6:34 & 44; and Psalms 54:5).

Article 4.—We believe in the doctrine of man's sinfulness and impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by virtue of his own free will (Ephesians 2:1-10).

Article 5.—We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ (Galatians 2:16 and Romans 3:24).

Article 6.—We believe that God's elect shall be called converted and sanctified by the Holy Ghost (Ephesians 1:4-7).

Article 7.—We believe that the saints shall persevere in Grace and shall never finally fall away (John 10: 1, 13, 28, 30 and Peter 1:9).

Article 8.—We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ and that true belivers are the only fit subject to be admitted to their enjoyment - the said ordinances to be administered by immersion (Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:8, Romans 6:4, and Ephesians 4:12).

Article 9.—We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment (I Corinthians, 15 Chapter; and Revelations 20: 12-15).

Article 10.—We believe that the punishment of the wicked is everlasting and that the joy of the righteous is eternal (Matthew 25:6 and Revelations 20:12-15).

Article 11.—We believe that ordained ministers, such as those endorsed by the church with its lawful and organized presbytery, are the only ones to administer the Ordinances of the church (Act 13:3, 11 Timothy 4:14, and 11 Timothy 1:16).

CONSTITUTION

We, the ministers from the various Baptist churches in Columbus and Bladen Counties, North Carolina, met with Butler Branch Missionary Baptists of Christ at Fair Bluff, N. C., on the 11th of December, 1929, for the purpose of considering the propriety of entering into some general organization for our mutual improvement and for the diffusion of the principles of the Gospel. We are agreed upon the following results and fundamental principles:

Article 1.

Section 1.—This association shall be known as the New Era Missionary Baptist Association.

Section 2.—The object of the association shall be to foster the Kingdom of Christ, to aid home and foreign missions, to support ministerial education, and to help aged and infirm ministers wherever the need is required.

Section 3.—This body shall be composed of the ministers belonging to the churches of this association, together with three delegates for every hundred members.

Section 4.—The churches shall, in the selection of the delegates, pay strict attention to the moral and intellectual qualifications of those appointed.

Section 5.—The delegates appointed from the churches belonging to this association shall bear from their respective churches letters certifying their appointment and communicating information relative to the state and constitution of the church.

Article 11.

Section 1.—This association shall elect out of the body annually a president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and auditor.

Section 2.—It shall be the duty of the president to appoint committees on finance, vigilance, arrangements, Sabbath School, missions, periodicals, education, and post office. This shall be done early in the session. After ordination he shall carry on any necessary investigations.

Section 3.—The duty of the recording secretary shall include the faithful keeping of the records and transactions of the body in a book furnished by the association.

Section 4.—It shall be the province of the president to invite visiting brothers to a seat and ask them to aid in the deliberations of the business of the association.

Article 111.

Section 1.—Each annual session of this association shall begin on Friday before the third Sunday in October at such a place as may have been agreed by the body.

Section2.—There shall be at each session an annual address and the following sermons: an introductory one, one each on temperance, education, and missions. Other subjects may be discussed at the option of the association.

Section 3.—There shall be an Executive Committee appointed at each session to which all unfinished business of the body shall be referred at the expense of the body.

Section 4.—No one shall be allowed to make more than two speeches of five minutes each on any subject without special permission of the association.

Section 5.—The organization will not fellowship any church or minister who fails to promote Gospel order and principles or treats the constitution with contempt.

Section 6.—No applicants shall be ordained who shall not give a satisfactory examination in common English branches and display a general knowledge of the Bible. All applicants for ordination may be left to the disposal of the different churches from which they are sent.

Section 7.—Each church be required to send such a sum as will amount to twenty-five cents for each male and fifteen cents for each female member. This Association shall have a fund created and sustained by voluntary contributions by the churches and held by the treasurer, subject to the will of the majority present at any annual session.

Section 8.—This constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds majority of those voting at any annual session.

Signed:

Daniel Flowers
Chadbourn, N. C., Route 2, Box 83